

Message Text

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ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 IO-09 SCI-01 NEA-05 INR-09 /084 W

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FM AMEMBASSY SANAA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1852

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANAA 368

AIDAC TOPEC

BEIRUT FOR BITAR; AID/ W FOR AAO RUIZ

SUBJECT: TAIZ WATER PROJECT

REF: BEIRUT 2424 (NOTAL)

1. I CONVEYED TO UN RESREP KOUWENHOVEN MARCH 4 BITAR'S RESPONSE (BEIRUT 2424) THAT PCV'S SHOULD BE ASSIGNED TO KENNEDY PROJECT DIRECTLY AND NOT AS UNV'S. KOUWNEHOVEN, WHILE HE REGRETTED DECISION, UNDERSTOOD THAT POOR PAST PERFORMANCE IN UNV UTILIZATION OF PCV'S IN YEMEN HAD PROMPTED THIS. HE IS, HOWEVER, DETERMINED TO TIGHTEN UP HIS UNV OPERATION AND HOPES THIS NOT IRREVOCABLE DECISION APPLYING TO FUTURE PROJECTS. HE ALSO TOLD US UNV HQS, AT HIS REQUEST, HAD AGREED IT COULD REQUEST PCV'S DIRECTLY FROM PC AND NEED NOT GO THROUGH LENGTHY ISVS INTERNATIONAL RECRUITMENT PROCEDURES. BELIEVE THIS DESERVES CONSIDERATION IN FUTURE.

2. UNDP UNDER PROJECT ENGINEER TOLSON HAS DRAWN UP COMPREHENSIVE ON- THE- JOB TRAINING PROGRAM FOR TAIZ WATER PROJECT TO UPGRADE SKILLS OF PRESENT 120 EMPLOYEES PLUS 86 NEW ONES. FIELDS OF TRAINING INCLUDE: MACHINE SHIP, AUTOMOTIVE, PIPE FITTING, LABORATORY, DIESEL REPAIR, POWER PLANT OPERATION, WATER PUMP SHOP, METER RZQAIR SHIP, WELDING, ELECTRICAL (HIGH VOLTAGE), ELECTRICAL (AUTO) -, \$, ADMINISTRATION. UNDP PREPARED ASSUME THIS PROJECT AS RECOMMENDED BY TOLSON AND UTILIZING HIS SERVICES UNDER RENEWED CONTRACT. KOUWENHOVEN, HOWEVER, RECOGNIZES STRONG USAID INTEREST IN TAIZ SYSTEM AND IS PREPARED TO

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LEAVE FIELD TO USAID. HE ONLY ASKS FIRM ASSURANCE THAT WE
WILL PICK UP ESSENTIALLY INITIATIVE ENTIRETY PROGRAM PROJECTED BY

UNDP, IN TRAINING AND MAINTENANCE (AND ULTIMATELY ALL 11 OR VQW
VOLUNTEERS TO BE USED IN TRVLING PROGRAM).

3. KOUWENHOVEN WISHES MAKE SURE THIS PROJECT, WHICH IMPORTANT
IN ITSELF AND ESSENTIAL TO SUCCESS OF OTHER UNDP PROJECTS, INTER
ALIA ROAD EQUIPMENT TRAINING, DOES NOT FALL BETWEEN TWO STOOLS.
BELIEVE THIS SHOULD POSE NO PROBLEM SINCE OJT LISTED AS USAID
PROJECT INPUT AND IN VIEW AID'S PLANNED HIRING OF TOLSON (OF
WHICH KOUWENHOVEN NOT YET AWARE). KOUWENHOVEN, HOWEVER, NEEDS
FORMAL ASSURANCE FROM AID/ W BY MARCH 11 THAT THIS TURNOVER
AGREEABLE TO IT IN PRINCIPLE SO THAT HE CAN NOTIFY TOLSON
HIS CONTRACT NOT BEING RENEWED AND CAN SEPARATE WATER PROJECT
TRAINING FROM PLANNED ROAD EQUIPMENT TRAINING PROPOSAL WHICH
HE MUST SUBMIT TO UNDP AROUND MARCH 11. WE CONSIDER KOUWENHOVEN'S
REQUEST GENEROUS AND ENTIRELY REASONABLE EFFORT AVOID
DUPLICATION OF EFFORT; REQUEST APPROVAL ON THIS SOONEST.
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